

## **COPERATIVE TEACHING LEARNING**

The educational researchers and teacher educators have developed a variety of strategies which are stated to be free from the weaknesses of conventional methods. Besides enhancing the level of students' performance, cooperative learning methods and strategies have the potential to bring about desirable changes in students' behaviour. In this unit, you will study the concept, need, types and advantages of cooperative learning. Researchers have developed the cooperative learning strategies as an alternative to both whole class teaching and learning strategies and the individualized learning strategies. The cooperative strategies make an attempt to overcome the weaknesses of both whole class and individualized learning strategies. Based on this explanation let us understand cooperative learning.

"Cooperative learning is a set of teaching strategies used to help learners meet specific learning and interpersonal goals in structured groups (Slavin, 1995)".

This definition of cooperative learning includes the following three ideas:

- **Cooperative Learning** It is not a single teaching or learning strategy. It is a set of teaching strategies.
- It helps the learners to achieve two types of goals, i.e. learning goals and interpersonal goals. This implies that cooperative learning is conducive for the improvement of students' learning achievement as well as for the development of interpersonal skills.
- Cooperative learning takes place in structured groups, that is, the groups which are formed in a planned and systematic manner.

### **Merits:**

**Collective perception:** The members are collectively conscious of their existence as a group.

**Needs:** The members join a group because they believe it will satisfy some needs or give them some rewards.

**Shared aims:** The members hold common aims or ideals, which to some extent bind them together. The achievement of aims is presumably one of the rewards.

**Interdependence:** The members are interdependent in as much as they are affected by or they respond to any event that affects any of the group's members.

**Social organization:** A group can be seen as a social unit with norms, roles, statuses, power and relationships.

**Interaction:** The members influence and respond to each other in the process of communicating, whether they are face-to-face or otherwise deployed. The sense of "group" exists even when members are not collected in the same place.

**Cohesiveness:** The members want to remain in the group to contribute to its well-being and aims, and to join in its activities.

**Membership:** Two or more people interacting for longer than a few minutes constitute a group.

**Students enjoy working in groups.** Group - work is a sure means for enhancing students' motivation and interest in the learning task in hand.

**Equal Opportunity:** Group work provides opportunity to all the students to actively participate in the process of learning and acquisition of knowledge.

**Group work** makes it possible for each and every student to progressively enhance his/her learning achievement by making him/her an active learner.

While working in groups, students get ample opportunities to interact with one another, which leads to improvement in their communication and - interpersonal skills.